

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

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May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015

The Honorable Thomas Wheeler  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

On December 4, 2014 the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act Reauthorization (STELAR) Act of 2014 became law. The Commission has since proposed satellite television market modification rules to implement section 102 of the Act. Of strong interest to our constituents, STELAR amended the Communications Act and the Copyright Act to give the Commission authority to modify a commercial television broadcast station's local television market for purposes of satellite carriage rights.

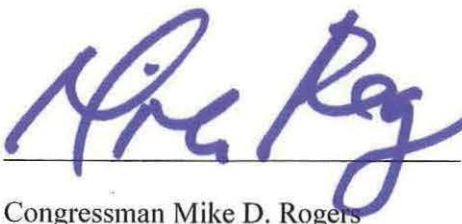
As you may know, there are counties in Alabama whose local television Designated Market Areas (DMAs) have "orphan counties" that exist within them. These counties are defined by our constituents' inability to receive, via satellite or over-the-air, in-state broadcast networks. As the Representatives for three orphan counties in Alabama – Cleburne, Lamar, and Randolph counties – these proceedings are of significant importance to us. It is paramount for public safety and fairness reasons that counties have access to in-state broadcast television stations. Our constituents in these three counties feel strongly about the availability of television content that is relevant to them.

We believe that the FCC should take into special consideration STELAR's language regarding the "value of localism" and specifically allow Counties, Parishes or the equivalent political subdivisions to make public comments about the television content their community prefers.

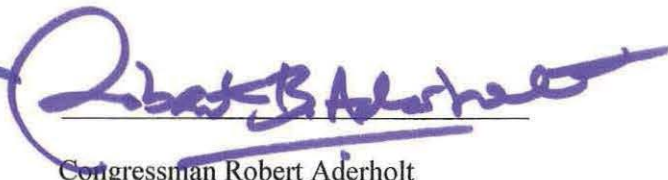
In addition, as you know, STELAR directs the FCC to consider whether it should make changes to the current cable market modification rules. When considering this, we urge the FCC to keep the burdens of filing such a written petition for market modifications low. The expense of filing market modification requests should not be such a burden that local stations are unable to file them.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Congressman Mike D. Rogers



Congressman Robert Aderholt



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 23, 2015

The Honorable Robert B. Aderholt  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2369 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Aderholt:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's (Commission) requirement to put forth rules on market modification for implementing the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act Reauthorization (STELAR) Act. I also thank you for your views expressing concern for whether residents of Cleburne, Lamar, and Randolph counties in Alabama will have the opportunity to achieve market modifications.

On September 2, 2015, pursuant to STELAR requirements, the Commission adopted a process by which parties may seek modification of a TV station's local television market to add or delete communities in order to better reflect market realities. This process has been in place for cable since 1992. Where satellite providers have the technical ability to carry a station and where broadcasters are willing to be carried, the market modification process may, in some instances, address the problem of "orphan counties." This process could allow consumers to receive previously unavailable in-state broadcast programming, including news, public affairs, and sports.

I am hopeful that the proposed rules will offer an opportunity for subscribers in your district to receive in-state stations via satellite. I appreciate your views and understand how deeply the residents of your district care about receiving local programming. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 23, 2015

The Honorable Mike D. Rogers  
U.S. House of Representatives  
324 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Rogers:

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Tom Wheeler